purchase bread which he distributes to his neighbors among the townspeople. The ceremony for the first son is much more extravagant than that held for girls and subsequent male children. Twins are thought to be a blessing, "a gift of God," and there is a "ceremony double in size" for them. Albinism seems to be unknown in Kowanda. Deformed infants, if they survive, are kept within the house, and their parents "look out for them" just as with normal children.

Infants are fed at the breast for a period of varying length, from six to twenty-four months. Renewed pregnancy requires weaning, because it is held that the milk in then "unfortunate" for the first child. If the mother cannot suckle her child, a wet-nurse is obtained, and she becomes, as noticed previously, its foster-mother, Zizwa, and the child cannot marry one of her children in later life. The wet-nurse resides in the home of the infant, and is established with money and food. In the event that a nurse cannot be obtained, the child is fed with the fresh milk of goats, sheep, or cattle. Infants are not nursed at regular periods, but whenever the mother feels it is necessary, and are they suckled every time they cry. It is said that "crying develops the voice," and they are often left unattended in this respect for some length of time.

The cradle is of wood, and consists of a flat wooden bed raised between four flat legs which are carved to look above it is two arches. The arches are connected by a

CHAPTER IV

LIFE CYCLE

BIRTH

Bringing children into the world is the justification and bliss of the Ormuzdi marriage—also the Kurdish.

The following particulars concerning birth were given me by the district's wife at Tegawra.

Parturition takes place in a sitting position. One of the ordinary copper cooking pots, a milk pail, is placed on the floor between the legs. Over this is laid a thin, pierced mattress on which the woman in labour soon herself. An assistant places herself behind, holds her under the arms, and supports her back. Another squats down in front so that the woman about to give birth can grasp her round the neck. This woman in front acts as the midwife. She may be an ordinary, experienced woman from the village. However, in Sultan Gora was a midwife who had undergone a three months course in Baghdad, and the woman who had assisted the two wives in my interpreter's house at the 27 births that had taken place there, was stated to be a fully-trained midwife, when the first to be visited in Sulaimani. At the time I was there this woman was about 50 years of age.

Births take place in one of the rooms of the house. I was told that the father was be present. The umbilical cord is cut by knife or scissors. The knife doctor at the Sulaimani Town Hall told me that in case of a sudden birth out in the mountains, the umbilical cord would be severed by a sharp stone, another stone being used as base.

In the villages I visited there was no doctor. Even a complicated birth may fall to the local midwife in the form of an experienced neighbour or a midwife with a three month certificate. A female German gynecologist at the hospital in Sulaimani told of a case where the birth came to a stop in one of the villages. The fetus was dead, and the woman had lain for 24 hours with all her natural functions at a standstill, while the village women debated whether or not the dangerously ill woman should be transported by mule over the mountains to Sulaimani in such unsuited situation. Finally it was decided to send her to the town where her life was saved thanks to the efforts of the gynecologist.

In another case a woman in Sulaimani sentenced with fever after giving birth. She was taken on horseback and then by bus to the hospital in Sulaimani. The child, which was a few days old, could not be taken and died during the woman's absence.

The newborn child, naked, is wrapped in a piece of cotton material that was on a woman and is changed three times a day. It is then laid on a large piece of material folded into a triangle that reaches to its shoulders and is somewhat larger than the legs. The cloth is about 1.20 m. x 1.20 m. The child's legs are straightened out and the lower pieces of the cloth are then up around the feet. The two upper